



## **Robert H. Harry, JR., D.D.S.**

### **Assistant Surgeon General**

### **Executive Advisor**

### **Indian Health Service**

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Robert H. Harry, Jr., D.D.S., a member of the Cherokee Nation and an Oklahoma native, began his career with the Indian Health Service (IHS), an agency within the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), in 1976. Dr. Harry holds the Public Health Service (PHS) Commissioned Corps rank of Assistant Surgeon General. His first assignment was as a dental officer in the IHS Oklahoma City Area, followed by assignments as a Community Development Specialist, Chief of the Area Dental Program, Assistant Area Director for Health Program Services, and Deputy Director for the Area. In 1989 he was selected as the Area Director for the IHS Oklahoma City Area. As Director, he managed a comprehensive program that provides health services to the largest user population of all the IHS Area Offices, more than 280,000 American Indians comprising over 37 tribes. The geographic area of responsibility covers the states of Oklahoma, Kansas, and portions of Texas. Health care is provided through direct care, contract care, or tribally operated facilities.

In 1996 Dr. Harry was assigned to Headquarters to work on the restructuring of IHS Headquarters. From March 1997 to June 1998, he also served as Acting Director of the Office of Public Health, IHS Headquarters.

Dr. Harry began his current position as Executive Advisor to the Director in 1999. He provides leadership for important and highly visible initiatives for American Indians and Alaska Natives relating to elder care, the improvement of services provided to IHS commissioned officers, and initiatives relating to the IHS Dental Program. He also represents the Agency in health policy discussions with tribes, urban Indian health programs, and other Federal agencies.

Dr. Harry is a member of the Oklahoma Governor's Conference on Rural Health, the Oklahoma University Dental School Committee for the Recruitment of Indian Students, and the Oklahoma University Health Sciences Center Council on Education for Public Health. A member of the steering committee for the State conference on "Healthy Oklahomans" and the Mayor's Commission on American Indian Affairs, he also serves on the Federal Executive Council. Dr. Harry's professional affiliations include the Commissioned Officers Association, the Association of Military Surgeons, and the Oklahoma Public Health Association.

Dr. Harry is a graduate of California College at Fullerton Orange State with a bachelor of arts degree in science. He continued his studies there, receiving postgraduate training in biology. He received his doctor of dental surgery degree from the University of California at Los Angeles, School of Dentistry.

A recipient of the Surgeon General Medallion in 1993, Dr. Harry's other honors and awards include the PHS Meritorious Service Medal, the PHS Equal Employment Opportunity Achievement Award, and the PHS Outstanding Service Medal, along with both the Isolated Hardship Service Ribbon and the Hazardous Duty Service Ribbon. In 1991, Dr. Harry was presented with the HHS Inspector General Integrity Award.